

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 307

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SENV, PO, SP

SUBJ: MFA EUROPEAN SPECIALIST COMMENTS ON PORTUGAL

REF: LISBON 5453

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EUROPEAN AFFAIRS (AGUIRRE DE CARCER) STATES GOS HAS GIVEN PORTUGUESE PERMISSION TO RETURN BODY OF PORTUGUESE OPPOSITIONIST HUMBERTO DELGADO TO LISBON FOR FINAL BURIAL WITH HONORS. (SIMILAR INFO APPEARED IN MADRID PRESS JAN 16.) HE STATES PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE WILL SEND PLANE AND HONOR GUARD TO PICK UP BODY AT BADAJOZ JAN 23 FOR RETURN TO LISBON AND WHAT HE UNDERSTANDS TO BE BURIAL WITH FULL MILITARY HONORS. DELGADO'S REMAINS AT VILLANUEVA DEL FRESNO, SMALL COMMUNITY OUTSIDE BADAJOZ. HE NOTED THAT PORTUGUESE AIR FORCE MAKING ALL ARRANGEMENTS AND SPECULATED THAT AIR FORCE MAY BE TRYING TO OVERCOME ITS IMAGE AS MOST REACTIONARY OF THREE MILITARY SERVICES BY IDENTIFYING ITSELF WITH SPIRIT OF DELGADO.

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2. COMMENTING ON POSSIBLE PORTUGUESE COMPLAINTS OF

SPANISH NUCLEAR POLLUTION OF TAGUS (REFTEL), AGUIREE COMMENTED THAT HISPANO-PORTUGUESE BORDER COMMISSION, WHICH DEALS WITH RIVERS, HAS BEEN MEETING REGULARLY SINCE APR 1974 CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGAL AND PORTUGUESE HAVE NEVER RAISED THIS AS ISSUE. THERE OR IN ANY OTHER FORUM. EXPRESSING BEWILDERMENT, AGUIRRE NOTED THAT SIMILAR REPORTS OF PORTUGUESE UNHAPPINESS OVER POSSIBLE NUCLEAR POLLUTION BY PLANT AT TALAVERA HAD BEEN REPORTED IN SPANISH MAGAZINE "CAMBIO 16". HE FELT THAT THIS WAS ARTIFICIAL ISSUE RAISED BY ANTI-SPANISH ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF SPANISH HOSTILITY TO NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME, CAPITALIZE ON CURRENT INTERNAL SPANISH PUBLIC CONCERN ABOUT SAFETY OF NUCLEAR PLANTS, AND SPECIFICALLY, RAISE DOUBT ABOUT SAFETY STANDARDS OF AMERICAN-DESIGNED REACTORS SUCH AS ONE AT TALAVERA (WESTINGHOUSE).

3. TURNING TO IBERIA PACT MEETING IN LISBON LAST MONTH, AGUIRRE NOTED IT PRODUCED LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE ADDING THAT ITS REAL VALUE WAS IN FACT THAT IT OCCURRED. (SUBSEQUENTLY, SUBORDINATE MFA OFFICIAL WHO DEALS WITH PORTUGUESE AFFAIRS SAID SPANISH MILITARY HAD STILL PROVIDED MFA NO INFORMATION ON IBERIA PACT MEETING.)

4. AGUIRRE TOOK NOTE OF FREQUENT AND CONTINUING ANTI-SPANISH COMMENTARY IN PORTUGUESE MEDIA. HE NOTED THAT GOS AWARE THAT MEDIA IN PORTUGAL LARGELY IN HANDS OF LEFTISTS. ITS ATTITUDE, THEREFORE, IS TO BE AS FOREBEARING AS POSSIBLE BUT TO REMIND PORTUGUESE FROM TIME TO TIME THAT IT AWARE OF THESE IRRITANTS AND THAT SPAIN HAS MEANS TO RESPOND IN KIND IF PORTUGUESE GO TOO FAR. AGUIRRE SAID GOS HAD NOT MADE ISSUE OF FACT THAT PCE LEADER SANTIAGO CARRILLO WAS HONORED GUEST OF SOCIALIST PARTY AND SOARES AT RECENT CONGRESS. HE STATED GOS BELIEVES SUCH VISITS MUST BE TOLERATED BUT IT WOULD HAVE TO REACT MORE STRONGLY IF GOP ALLOWED PCE TO ESTABLISH PERMANENT OFFICE IN PORTUGAL. DISCUSSING GOP'S CANCELLATION OF LISBON PROTEST DEMON-
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STRATION IN BEHALF OF SPANISH POLITICAL PRISONERS PLANNED FOR DECEMBER, AGUIRRE SAID GOP ACTED WITH SURPRISING SPEED AFTER SPANISH WARNED THAT DEMONSTRATION COULD COMPLICATE RELATIONS. HE COMMENTED THAT DEMONSTRATION HAD STRONG COMMUNIST SUPPORT AND THAT CANCELLATION OF IT WAS POLITICALLY DIFFICULT ACT FOR GOP, FACT WHICH HE REGARDED AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF IMPORTANCE LISBON GIVING TO HAVING CORRECT RELATIONS

WITH SPAIN.
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